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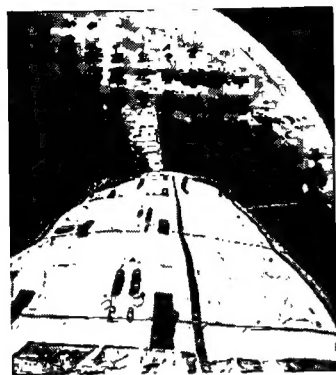
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November 2006

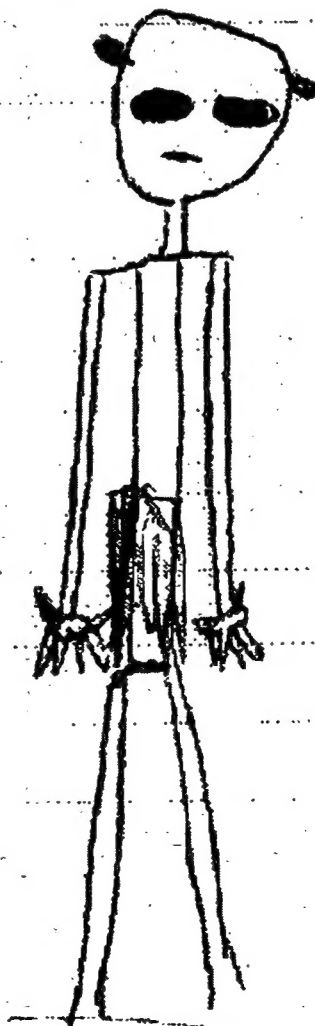
No. 463

\$4.00

MUFON

Mutual UFO Network

UFO JOURNAL



This drawing of a strange creature which looks very little like the typical alien was done by a 16-year-old North Dakota witness who says he shot one of these entities, who were stealing a hog.

This case is possibly a sequel to the reported April 18, 2006, landing case described in the September issue of the *Journal*. The article begins on page 3.

MUFON UFO Journal

(USPS 002-970)
(ISSN 0270-6822)

Mutual UFO Network
Post Office Box 279
Bellvue, CO 80512-0279
Tel: 970-221-1836
Fax: 866-466-9173
hq@mufon.com

International Director
James Carrion, M.A.
P.O. Box 279
Bellvue, CO 80512-0279
Tel: 970-221-1836 (221-1UFO)
Fax: 866-466-9173
jcarrion@mufon.com

Editor:
Dwight Connelly, M.S.
14026 Ridgelawn Road
Martinsville, IL 62442
mufonufojournal@hotmail.com

Columnists:
George Filer, M.B.A.
Stanton Friedman, M.S.
Gavin A. J. McLeod
Ted Phillips

Staff artist
John Egerton

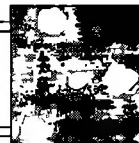
MUFON staff photographer
Nick Roesler

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Directors' Message

By James Carrion



Great past, great future

As I settle into my first month as the MUFON International Director, I can't help but reflect on how far MUFON has come since its inception in 1969.

Rising like a Phoenix from the ashes of the Air Force's defunct Project Blue Book, MUFON took up the challenge of scientifically investigating and researching UFOs as a grass roots civilian organization. MUFON members today owe a great debt of gratitude to Walt Andrus and John Schuessler and so many others for having the vision and fortitude to not allow the study of UFOs to pass into oblivion. It is an honor for me to continue the MUFON legacy.

What makes MUFON such a great organization are you the members who

give selflessly of your time to attend or run state and local meetings, investigate UFO sightings, research UFO activity and educate the public on the reality of UFOs.

Without your efforts, MUFON would not be the largest UFO investigative organization in the world. Please know that all of your contributions are so very much appreciated.

Many times I hear people say that UFOs are past their prime, and that we will never experience the level of activity that was witnessed in the 1940s-1970s. I disagree.

Although, you may perceive a lull in UFO activity, thousands of new sightings are reported each year, and historical cases that were never before reported are coming to our attention for the first time. The UFO phenomenon has been with humanity for a very long time and will continue to be with us in the foreseeable future.

At the same time, the public interest in UFOs is very high, as demonstrated

(Continued on page 22)



James Carrion

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The *MUFON UFO Journal* is published monthly by the Mutual UFO Network, Inc., Bellvue, CO. Periodical postage paid at Versailles, MO.

Individual Membership \$45/year U.S. \$55 outside the U.S.

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Student (18 years and under) \$35 U.S. and \$45 outside the U.S.

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First class *Journal* delivery (in envelopes) U.S. and Canada only \$12/year additional

Air Mail *Journal* delivery to all other countries outside the United States: \$35/year additional

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High strangeness encounter in corral includes reported shooting of entity

By Richard Moss

Minnesota MUFON State Director
and Lorna Hunter

Field Investigator/Photographer

During the early morning hours of Sept. 11, 2006, a high-strangeness encounter occurred in central North Dakota.

The witness is the same young man who observed a landed triangle on adjacent property in April when he was in a pasture checking on cattle during calving time. (September, 2006, *MUFON UFO Journal*.)

When we arrived at the farm we were met by four barking dogs ranging in size from a small terrier to an almost-blind Saint Bernard. It is important to note that none of these dogs barked or showed any awareness of what was happening nearby during the events which will be described.

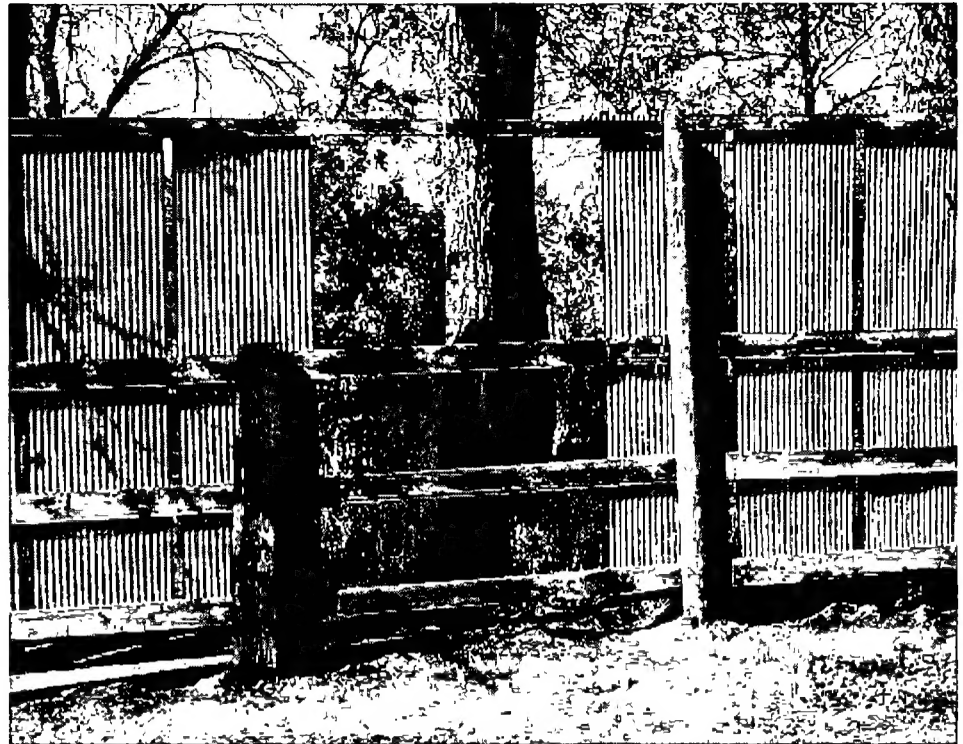
The witness, age 16, 5 feet 11 inches tall, and weighing about 200 pounds, described in an initial interview what he recalled from the incident:

He said he woke up some time after midnight on Sept. 11, and went to a bathroom downstairs to get a drink of water. Looking out a window he noticed two figures enter a corral where four pigs were kept.

Thinking they were deer about to eat some hog feed that had been set out for the morning feeding, he put on shoes and a jacket and grabbed a .22-cal single-shot rifle from the shop on his way to the corral.

His intent was to scare away the deer. The north, west, and part of the south side of the corral are covered with ten-foot-long galvanized corrugated metal sheets attached vertically to wooden fencing in order to create a windbreak.

The youth approached the corral from the south, behind the windbreak. Upon jumping the fence into the cor-



The damaged sheets of corrugated metal may have been displaced by the entities.

ral, he saw two figures apparently trying to steal a 400-lb pregnant sow.

One of them scooped up the sow with one arm, transferred it to its other arm, and tossed it to the second figure.

In the moonlight the witness suddenly realized that the figures were not "ordinary people" and quickly became frightened and confused, as they were extremely tall, perhaps seven or eight feet in height.

He fired a shot from his rifle into the left side of the entity that had caught the sow and was close enough that he felt sure he hit it. He immediately heard a loud screeching, squealing weird sound.

At the time of the interview we thought that he might have accidentally shot the sow. Or, maybe was terrified at what was happening.

Then the entity that had thrown the pig to the other one swiftly "floated"

toward the witness, picked him up by his shirt, and, with one arm, threw him backwards about 20 feet.

The youth landed on his back, and, while on the ground, heard a sort of "boom sound." He sat up, reloaded the rifle and looked around for the entities, but they were nowhere to be seen.

Two vertical sheets of corrugated metal on the west side of the corral had been knocked off, possibly providing a means of escape. If the entities were responsible, it would explain this loud sound.

In the past, some aliens have been described as levitating or floating from place to place. Readers might wonder, as we do, why they didn't just levitate over the windbreak to make their escape, instead of apparently knocking down part of it.

The witness got up and ran to a nearby mobile home occupied by his

sister, declaring, "They took her, they took her, and I couldn't stop them."

His shirt was torn, and he had two small scratches on his chest. In his agitated state he admitted that he was scared and couldn't tell the story straight.

They called his father at 2:04 AM, as recorded on his cell phone, who eventually called the sheriff, who responded with deputies. The sheriff and his deputies were reluctant to go into the wooded area to the west and north of the corral, but they returned after daybreak and did some searching. Nothing was found.

According to the website *Complete Sun and Moon Data for One Day*, the moon was 79% illuminated and had risen at 9:38 PM.

A call to the National Weather Service in Bismarck indicated that both high and low clouds, arriving from different directions, should have been over the area within the time frame of the experience.

The boy's father said that the sky was clear immediately after 2:04 AM, but that heavy low clouds and fog arrived shortly thereafter. Whether the sky was clear or a thin veil of high clouds were overhead, there apparently was enough moonlight to be able to see fairly well.

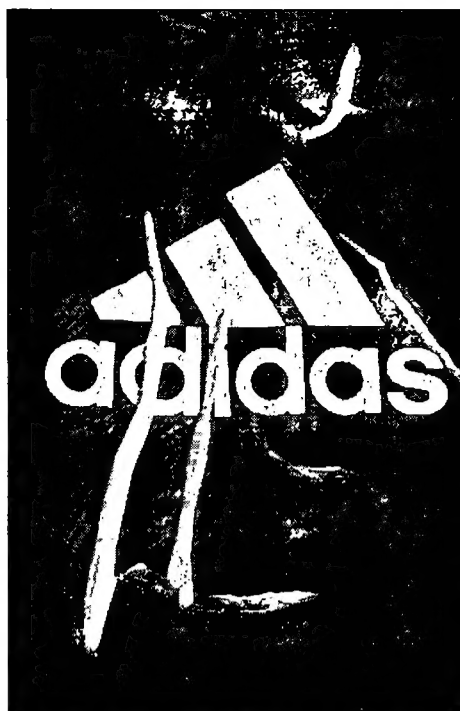
During a re-enactment we determined that the entities were about 12 feet apart when the sow was tossed from one to the other. It was also close to twelve feet between the entity that caught the pig and the opening in the windbreak.

Most of the nails that had fastened the sheet metal to the wooden boards were still in the boards, but a few had come out with the metal and were in the corrugated sheets.

There were fresh scrapes and scratches on one of the horizontal fence boards. We saw no signs of blood or liquids on the boards.

There were no signs of a bullet hole or scratches on either of the downed metal sheets which would have been in the line of fire if he had missed the entity.

Whether the .22 caliber bullet entered or bounced off of the entity, a



The witness' shirt was reportedly torn by one of the entities. (A white background was inserted into the shirt to make the tears more visible.)

"squeal" from this creature indicates that it must have had something akin to a nervous system that created pain when it was hit by the small bullet.

Although we could see no signs of any liquids (alien's or hog's blood) on the soil, a shovel was used to trace out a semicircle next to where the shot-at-alien had stood, and surface soil was collected into a galvanized utility pail for possible later analysis.

In retrospect, this might not have been a wise thing to do. If we had seen a spot on the soil that could have been alien blood we would have asked the sheriff to call in experts who are used to handling such materials.

Over time, additional conscious memories occurred, and as the witness retold the story, more adjectives were added to his description of the aliens.

They were described as being seven to eight feet tall, dark-skinned, narrow, thin, skinny, long, lanky, and strong. They had large glossy eyes and rounded heads with something around the temples resembling bolts.

(See sketch by witness on front cover.)

No clothing was noticed, other than it must have been of a dark color. No legs or feet were seen, but he described their movements in terms of floating, levitating, graceful yet mechanical, no wasted movements, and no emotions.

The witness lamented that the only evidence he has is his torn shirt, a damaged corral, and a missing hog. They later searched a wide area, but did not find their animal.

A form letter was mailed to every county sheriff in North Dakota requesting a phone call or email if anyone in the state reported finding a 400-lb mutilated black hog having "white socks."

But if it did end up being taken into a craft, it obviously could have been dropped over a state other than North Dakota. As of this date, 23 days after the event, a possibly mutilated hog has not been reported.

If we do get a report, we will go wherever it is located to verify that it is the missing animal and photograph it for publication.

The results of an interview are not always exactly confirmed by using hypnotic regression, and this proved to be true in this case.

If people find themselves in a short-lived and terrifying situation (for example, being a witness to an armed and violent bank robbery) they can be expected to give varying descriptions of what happened and what the robbers looked like.

The witness who confronted the entities likewise found himself in a short-duration event that was frightening. What follows are the results of a regression done by Craig Lang on Sept. 16, only five days following the encounter.

The regression

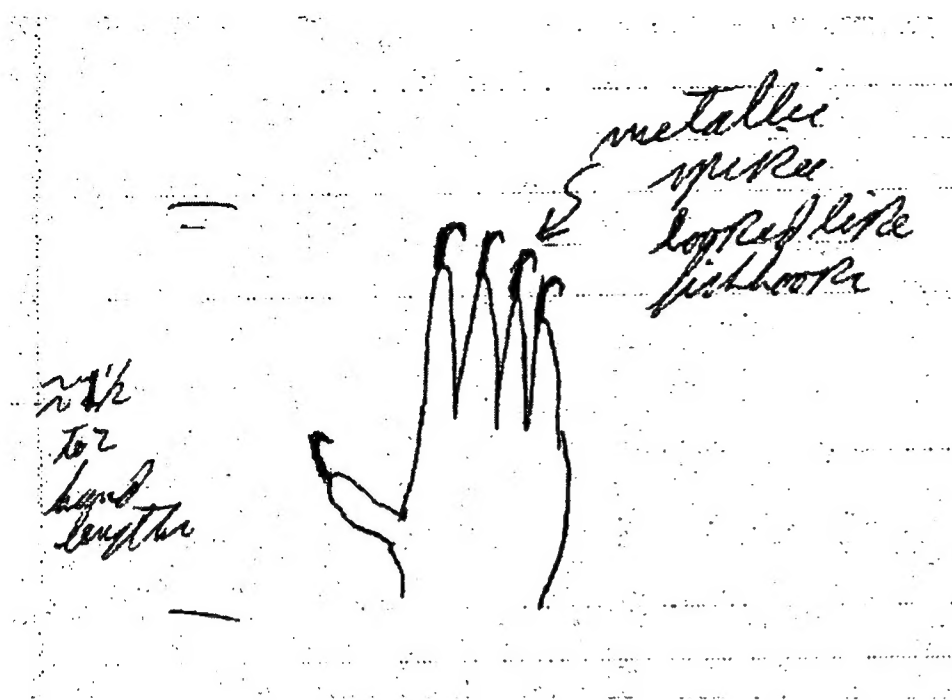
Craig R. Lang, MS CHt

Certified Hypnotherapist and Field

Investigator, Minnesota MUFON

Initially Dick and Lorna had visited the farm shortly after the encounter and interviewed the witness and his family. The account emerged which is summarized above.

As I listened to this narration, several key points in the account struck me



Scratches on witness' chest were reportedly received when the youth was grabbed by an entity with fishhook-type fingers (sketch by witness).

as extremely suggestive of an abduction.

1. The witness had had at least one other UFO sighting, observing a landed UFO at close range. In addition, there had been a possible cattle mutilation near the property a year before. All of these suggested that he and the family had had some possibly hidden interaction with the phenomenon.

2. The witness had initially thought that the figures in the corral were deer, which he assumed were after the pig feed. Often a screen memory of alien beings can appear as a deer [See Budd Hopkins, *Missing Time*].

3. The witness had instinctively grabbed his gun before he headed for the corral. I wondered if this instinctive reaction might be due to some underlying interactions with the phenomenon.

4. The beings appeared to be unlike any I had heard of before. The witness described them as about 7 feet tall, floating over the ground and moving with a gliding motion.

5. When the one being threw the witness, his memory of the event discontinued. This suggested missing time and a possible abduction.

On Saturday, 9/16, Dick, Lorna, and I drove to the family farm to interview them once again and to conduct a hypnotic regression with the witness.

I again interviewed him, as well as his father and mother. The account that Dick and Lorna described in their earlier article emerged in detail. The account was as consistent as it was mysterious.

I also asked the witness many questions about other aspects of life. The picture which emerged was one of a quiet, confident, sensible young man, not given to fantasy and having very little tendency for self-reflection.

He described himself as being very protective. He is also very muscular and extremely physically fit. I sensed that he would be formidable in any confrontation, with either humans or aliens.

He had not had any experience with either hypnosis or meditation, but he did daydream frequently. I explained to him that one could think of hypnosis as being similar to daydreaming, and that he would have full control of his thoughts at all times. He was very at home with this, and turned out to be an excellent hypnotic subject.

I took him into trance, spending a

long time deepening his hypnotic state and putting his mind at ease.

We then conducted the preliminaries of a close encounter regression, including establishing a safe place and finding any mental/emotional/spiritual resources which could be used if needed.

Once the preliminaries were complete, with the witness in deep trance, we then went back to the time of the encounter. Initially, he began to re-experience the encounter as nearly identical to his description during his earlier interviews.

Using the present tense, he described himself awakening, looking out of the bathroom window, and seeing the figures in the corral. He re-experienced the events of going out to the shed to get his gun and proceeding to the corral.

It emerged that taking a gun is largely standard procedure in such a circumstance. Thus, my initial speculation that this implied anything special about his relationship with the phenomenon appeared to be incorrect.

The witness then re-experienced looking into the corral. However, instead of seeing two beings, he saw three—then four beings.

He vaulted over the fence, brought his gun to bear, and fired at the nearest being. He then looked down to reload his gun. As he was doing this he no longer had the beings in his sight.

While he was looking down, he felt something grab him from behind, to his right. The being grabbed his front and side, spinning him around and casting him to the ground.

He felt his head hit the ground, apparently knocking him briefly unconscious. When he awoke, the beings and one of the hogs were gone.

With the witness in deep trance, we conducted several passes through the events. Each time a stable, consistent account emerged. Each pass added detail that was consistent with previous passes. Therefore I believe that this is a biographical memory of an actual event.

Several aspects of the account that emerged under hypnosis differed from

that which the witness described during the earlier interviews:

1. There were at least four beings in the corral.

2. During the interview, he stated that one of the beings was holding one of the hogs, which appeared to be very much alive. However, once under hypnosis, he described how the hog was lifeless and how two of the beings were attempting to remove it from the corral.

3. The description of the beings was slightly different during hypnotic recall than in the original interviews. The witness indicated that he could not clearly see the feet, so it was not clear how far off the ground they were floating. Thus, it is not clear how tall the beings actually were. However, the gliding motion appears to be consistent in all of his descriptions.

4. During the initial interviews, he described how the one being floated over to him and grabbed his shirt, throwing him backwards at least one body-length. However, once in trance, Evan described how a being grabbed him from behind and cast him to the ground.

5. The witness described getting a sense of fear from the other beings once the first one had been shot. He described what might have been an empathic telepathy between the beings and himself, with them indicating something like "we mean you no harm..."

6. His next memory was of sitting up, reaching for his gun, and looking around for the beings. They were gone, along with the hog.

7. He had noticed only the beings in the corral. There was no indication of a vehicle (presumably a UFO) in the area.

We concluded our hypnosis session with a few suggestions for emotional well-being. I also suggested that he could allow any other remaining memories to emerge, with which he would be comfortable.

I asked him what his emotions were toward them now, to which he replied, "I hate them." He does not appear traumatized from the event, although it has left both him and his family with quite

a shock to their personal world-views.

It does not appear that any abduction occurred. The missing time appears to be due to his head striking the ground, causing a brief moment of unconsciousness.

What happened in that corral in North Dakota in the wee hours of 9/11/06? Did this witness simply discover—and attempt to intercept—a group of beings stealing a farm animal?

Perhaps this is the case, with little existing beyond this. Yet the family has a history of UFO sightings, and we must again recall that there had been a possible cattle mutilation near this location a year earlier.

Thus, the hog-taking event may be part of a larger pattern associated with that farm.

Ultimately, we don't know any further details of what went on that night. Nor do we know the beings' purpose in being there. We know only that it is one more piece of a puzzle that gets stranger with every turn.



Nov. 10-12—UFO Crash Retrieval Conference, Las Vegas, NV, featuring Stanton Friedman, Dr. Michael Salla, Richard Dolan, Paul Schatzkin, Ryan Wood, Michael Lindemann, Peter Merlin, George Knapp, Dr. Robert M. Wood, Nick Redfern, Frank Feschino, Linda Moulton Howe, Dr. Bruce Maccabee, and Matthew E. Thuney; www.ufoconference.com, 720-887-8171.

Nov. 17-20—Crop Circles & Keys to Higher Consciousness, Tempe, AZ, featuring J.J. Hurtak, Russell Targ, William Henry, Jim Marrs, Linda Moulton Howe, Francine Blake, Nancy Talbott, Flordemayo, Philip Gardiner, Bert Janssen, Heather Clewett, & Chet & Kallista Snow. www.chetsnow.com, 928-204-1955.

Dec. 1-3—National UFO Conference, San Diego, CA, 858-523-1068, www.nufoc.org.

Feb. 25-March 2, 2007—International UFO Congress Conference & Film Festival, Laughlin, NV, 303-651-7136, www.ufocongress.com.

Update on alleged sonar scans of missing F-89C

By James Carrion

MUFON International Director

There have been a few new developments in the Kinross missing F89C case since last month's extensive report in the *Journal*, none of which add to the legitimacy of the claim that the aircraft has been located.

The recent statement by the "Great Lakes Dive Company" (GLDC) to have found the U.S. Air Force F89C Scorpion Jet that disappeared in 1953 over Lake Superior while in pursuit of a UFO has created quite a stir of excitement in the UFO community.

The claim was especially intriguing when the GLDC added the statement that a "mystery object" was found just over 200 feet from the plane.

The object supposedly had markings on it which matched damage to the plane.

MUFON's in-depth investigation of the case began with attempting to answer the basic questions—Is GLDC a valid company? Who are the principals of the company? What is their corporate history?

Since GLDC claimed to be a Michigan-based corporation, our inquiry began with a telephone call to the Michigan Division of Corporations, which did not have any record of a company incorporated under or operating under the name "Great Lakes Dive Company."

When GLDC spokesperson Adam Jimenez was questioned about this, he said in an email sent on Sept. 19, 2006:

"GLDC is in the process of switching from an incorporated company to an LLC organization.

We began as just a group of divers who would get together with our sonar equipment and sweep locations in the Great Lakes. As it became apparent that we would need to develop a business entity to interact with museums, obtain grants etc, we formed a company

early on. Once the group downsized and became more focused with regards to who was involved, the main group members decided to form GLDC LLC, to better manage the direction of the company. This entity is still pending, and not yet available to public records."

However, in an earlier email sent on Sept. 6, 2006, to MUFON investigator David Watson, Jimenez contradicted his later statement by saying:

"Incidentally our company name is Great Lakes Dive Company (not Inc.) we are technically an LLC. (just for accuracy sake). We are in the process of putting together a "formal" office, and will give you the mailing address when available."

Jimenez also refused to reveal who the principals of the company were, the company's operating structure, or the types of marine vessels used in their search, citing recent security threats made against them.

When asked about the nature of these threats, Jimenez stated:

"Threats were made regarding the salvage of the object, essentially 'tell us where it's at or else...' The individuals represented themselves as producers for the Discovery Channel.

"We made a few calls, found out the group was fraudulent and told them we no longer were interested in any future dealings with them...that's when the threats started.

"As a security precaution we changed all phone numbers associated with GLDC and have not included any company or personal information (like background info on the team) on any interviews. Until this situation (returning to the object) is resolved we will not be providing any further information on the project or the team."

MUFON later discovered that Jimenez had provided a cell phone number to various film makers and researchers, but switched to a new cell phone number soon after the threats



Alleged sonar scan of the F-89C Air Force fighter which disappeared after merging with an unknown object over Lake Superior. The scan, which supposedly shows the plane on the lake's bottom, may be a fake.

were made.

When MUFON tried to trace either phone number through Intelius.com, both phone numbers proved to be untraceable.

Since trying to confirm GLDC's corporate identity led to a dead end, MUFON then attempted to corroborate some of the other claims made by GLDC.

Jimenez claimed that GLDC was founded in 2001 for the purpose of shipwreck exploration and discovery, and with the goal of solving the enduring mysteries of lost vessels in Lake Superior.

In addition to the F-89 find, GLDC claimed that they were searching for the French minesweepers Cerisoles and Inkermann, and that they were interested in filming in high definition the wreck of the Gunilda.

Jimenez was quoted in an Aug. 29, 2006 article in the *American Chronicle*:

"2006 began as an ambitious project season for us, we were looking forward to further work at the F-89 site," said Jimenez. He added, "Then we received some

bad news. The Canadian government refused to allow us to use our ROV at the wreck site without first providing them the GPS coordinates of the site and allow either a Coast Guard escort or government official to accompany the expedition.

"We were stuck, we don't want to give up the site (especially because of the object, and it's potentially huge significance) but we need to stay on the good side of the Canadians due to our Gunilda project which involves a lot of other contributors."

MUFON contacted the Ontario Ministry of Culture and spoke with Michael Johnson, manager of the ministry's Heritage Operations Unit, whose office issues work permits for survey or exploration work in Lake Superior.

Johnson told MUFON that no one had requested a permit for exploring or surveying the F-89 jet or "mystery object," nor had his office received any related correspondence.

Johnson further stated that the Ministry would not require a coast guard

vessel or government official to accompany any expedition, but would allow the licensee to work under their own cognizance.

He added that the wreck's GPS coordinates did not have to be provided up front as long as they were included in a final survey report.

On Coast to Coast with George Noory, Linda Moulton Howe played an interview she recorded with Jimenez where he stated that Canada automatically claims ownership of any wrecks in Canadian territorial waters.

However, Mr. Putt from the office of the Ontario Receiver of Wrecks told MUFON that the original owner of the wreck (ship, plane, etc.) maintains ownership and would have to grant salvage permission—the F-89 would therefore still be considered U.S. Air Force property.

Putt elaborated by stating that if a wreck's owner is not known, which would possibly be the case for the "mystery object," then the Ontario Provincial Government would become the custodian for a year, and if the original owner could not be found, then the Ontario Receiver of Wrecks could sell it to the salvor or to the public.

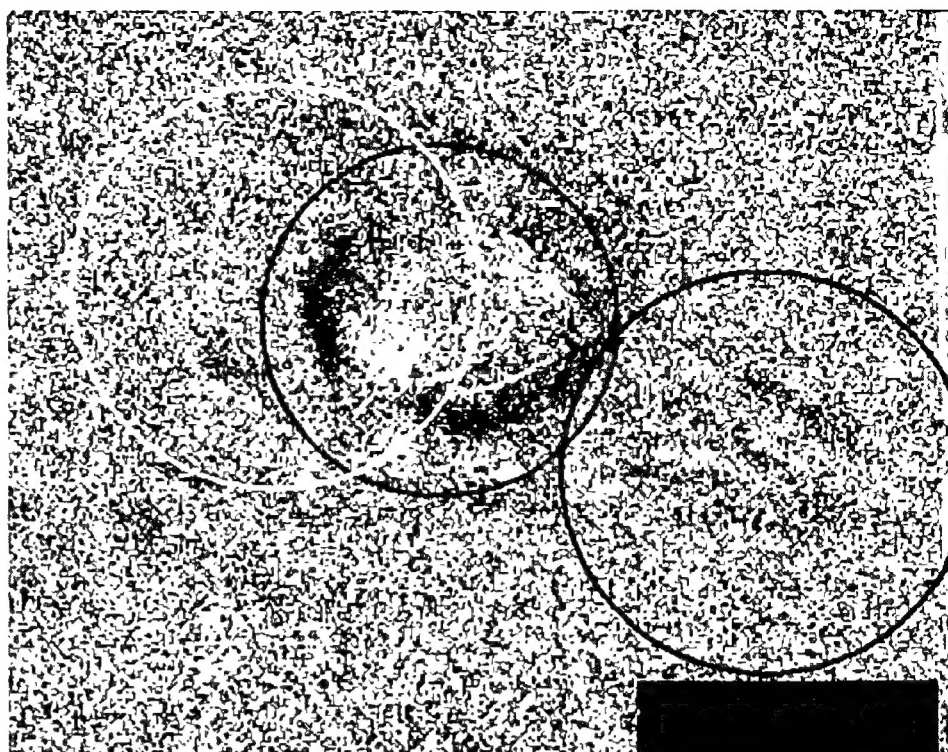
In the same Coast to Coast interview, Linda Moulton Howe stated that Jimenez graduated in 1990 from Kettering Technical School (run by General Motors) with a degree in computer engineering.

MUFON contacted the registrar's office at Kettering University (which had changed its name in 1998), and Becky Ibbotson, registrar assistant, related that no one by the name of Adam Jimenez had ever attended Kettering.

Giving GLDC the benefit of the doubt, MUFON posted messages to the public message boards on Scubaboard.com asking if anyone from the Ontario dive community knew GLDC or of any of the exploration work they had performed prior to 2006.

After hundreds of viewings, no one could provide any information to shed light on GLDC's claims.

MUFON also contacted Tom Farnquist, CEO of the Great Lakes Shipwreck Historical Society, whose



This alleged sonar scan of the reported "mystery object" not far from the alleged location of the F-89C features added circles showing the object and a groove in the lake bottom leading to the object. The area in the lower right was reportedly blacked out to hide the location statistics.

organization has been actively searching for the Cerisoles and Inkermann.

Farnquist heard of GLDC's F-89 claims from a local newspaper article, but had not heard of any of their other exploration work.

The *Soo Evening News* wrote an article on GLDC's claims, and mistakenly attributed the F-89 find to the Great Lakes Diving Company of Rockford, MI.

MUFON verified with the Rockford company owner that his company has no connection with GLDC.

MUFON sent copies of GLDC's F-89 side scan sonar images to the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, and a Woods Hole scientist, who wishes to remain anonymous, offered his professional opinion that they do not appear to be side scan sonar images, but photographs that were altered with computer software to look like side scan sonar images.

MUFON also contacted a professor at Michigan Tech University, who also wishes to remain anonymous, who stated that although the GLDC images

looked to him like genuine side scan sonar images, they could have been fabricated by a dedicated person.

In the July-August, 2006, issue of the *Journal of UFO History*, editor Dick Hall writes:

"In answer to questions from editor, Adam Jimenez of Great Lakes Dive Company said that they had not yet found any positive identification such as a serial number" (on the F-89).

However, in a Sept. 11, 2006, email to me, Jimenez contradicted this statement to Dick Hall by saying:

"The ROV confirmed that the canopy is intact, but we were unable to see inside due to silt and the translucent nature of the canopy. One would assume the crew is still inside.

"Yes the aircraft tail number is visible on the F-89c...this is how we were able to confirm that we had found the actual F-89 and not some other aircraft."

Although stating that GLDC could not get permission to use the ROV in 2006 without unacceptable restrictions,

Jimenez said that they did use it in 2005, apparently without the permission he has claimed is necessary:

"We did lower the ROV on the initial discovery (because we knew the risk existed that we may not be able to return to the site). We haven't been able to use the ROV on the site since (or return to the site at all for that matter) this season...we had hoped to use the ROV to further explore the site in 2006.

"Weather issues in 2005 prevented us from thoroughly exploring the wreck(s). The confusion is that the accounts are talking about two different dive seasons."

Elaborating on the supposed discovery, Jimenez said that GLDC wanted to check for radiation at the wreck site because something was affecting their equipment:

"We used a DX-1 hand held Geiger counter that was placed into a sealed chamber within the ROV and the speaker output was patched into the audio input of the digital camera on the ROV.

"We had to get the ROV close to the object to make sure the reading was accurate...however the efficiency rating of the DX-1 is not 100%, but we were satisfied that it was not radiation causing our electronic problems. We made the metallic determination based on visual evidence from the ROV."

Jimenez's statement thus alludes to GLDC illegally operating their ROV in Canadian waters without a properly issued license, and contradicts his previous assertion that "we need to stay on the good side of the Canadians due to our Gunilda project."

It is not clear as to how the Geiger counter was "patched" to the audio-input on the ROV's camera, as DX-1 Geiger counters do not have an audio-out jack, but only an internal speaker.

MUFON then investigated how and when GLDC's claims were first made public.

The earliest known account MUFON could find was an Aug. 22,

2006, posting to the UFO Updates mailing list where a certain "Preston Miller" forwarded what was labeled a Port Huron, MI, Associated Press (AP) news article on GLDC's claims to Francis Ridge.

Ridge told MUFON that he does not know who Preston Miller is. Checking with the *Port Huron Times Herald*, an authorized AP news source in Port Huron, managing editor Judith McClean told MUFON that her newspaper did not originate the article.

MUFON also contacted the Associated Press Michigan Bureau in Detroit and spoke with Joe Altman.

Altman looked at the UFO Update article online and said that it was not written in the characteristic style of an AP press report, as it lacked any date references.

Altman also searched all AP news feeds and could not find any information that would indicate AP was the source for the article.

On Sept. 26, GLDC's web site content at www.greatlakesdive.com was removed, and is no longer available. A week later, the GLDC message board that was hosted by excoboard.com was also unavailable.

Performing an Internet Whois query of the greatlakesdive.com Internet domain name revealed that the domain name registrar is Melbourne IT Ltd, a company based in Australia.

Thinking that GLDC's claims may be related to the recent Australian UFO wave videos that were revealed to be a hoax, MUFON contacted the UFO wave perpetrator, Chris Kentworthy, who denied any involvement or knowledge of GLDC.

Searching the Internet revealed various security bulletins warning that some fraudulent web sites use this same Melbourne IT Ltd registrar and the related myprivateregistration.com service.

Jimenez is currently not responding to emails or phone calls.

In summary, MUFON, after many hours of investigation by a number of our dedicated field investigators, has not been able to substantiate any of GLDC's claims. Until GLDC person-

nel resurface with more information and definitive proof of the F-89 discovery, their claims remain doubtful at this time. MUFON will continue its investigation and update our readers as further developments unfold.

Scientists discover that solids can pass through solids

In hundreds of abduction cases, the experiencers report being moved through walls and other solid objects. Many people have discounted their testimony, calling it "impossible."

However, that opinion is now being challenged. Moses Chan and his associates at Pennsylvania State University have created the world's first "supersolids," bizarre crystals that slide through each other like ghosts.

It is a finding that promises to revolutionize the way we think about matter. "It really changes one's concepts of solids," says Jason Ho, a solid-state theorist at Ohio State University in Columbus.

According to the researchers, solids get their reassuring rigidness from the orderly way their atoms are arranged. Unlike liquids and gases, the atoms in a crystal are fixed, a bit like the squares on a checkerboard.

While they may quiver a little due to their thermal energy, this normally isn't enough to dislodge the atoms and cause them to flow over each other.

In some crystals, the bonds between atoms are weak and an atom may break free. This leaves the crystal latticework full of gaps called "zero-point vacancies," and these vacancies are mobile.

Scientists think these vacancies have energy and mass just as atoms do.

—*New Scientist* magazine

Estate planning

Planned giving can be beneficial both to MUFON and to your own tax and estate situation. Please contact MUFON headquarters for details.

Wendy Connors' Faded Discs project preserves the voices of ufology's past

By Dwight Connelly

Journal editor

While MUFON is justifiably proud of our Pandora Project, which is making thousands of UFO cases available to researchers, it's not the only game in town.

Wendy Connors is taking a different approach: an audio UFO history preservation project which she calls Faded Discs, covering the period from 1947 to 1973.

"I started the project in 2002," she explains, "when it became apparent that digitization would be the future of audio, and that the beginning of the MP3 format would allow huge amounts of recordings to be archived on computers and downloaded as needed for research—or just plain entertainment."

The problem, she says, was that historical recordings of key personalities and important cases were scattered "from pillar to post."

In addition, they were usually in obsolete formats, such as reel-to-reel, cassette, LPs, wire recordings, electrical transcription discs, and even 8-tracks.

Wendy decided that two things had to be done. First, the technological devices required to utilize the various formats had to be obtained so that the recordings could be transferred to CDs.

When word got out that the project was being organized, various researchers chipped in to fund the purchase of equipment.

The second thing which had to be done, of course, was to obtain the recordings. Once again researchers pitched in to locate key recordings, some from basements, some from attics, and some from personal files.

"It does not take too much imagination to realize just how much some of the recordings had deteriorated," says Wendy. "It has been a long and arduous undertaking."

Some of the recordings restored

"magnificently," but others challenged even the best software, ranging from extremely poor to very good.

"This may sound like an interesting undertaking," explains Wendy, "and for at least some of the time it is. But the vast amount of work involved is extremely time consuming, and ends up being just plain



Wendy Connors

grunt work."

She notes that each recording is usually listened to a minimum of five times before it is completed. "If it is a very rare recording," she explains, "I will spend many days attempting to restore it to the best possible condition."

But since the idea of the project is to preserve as much of the older material as quickly as possible, she tries not to spend too much time on most recordings.

Although the project is not profit oriented, funding is still crucial. "It's an expensive undertaking," says Wendy.

"For example, parts for a wire recorder from the 1940s are certainly not on the shelf at Circuit City, and usually have to either be taken from another machine or hand made. On top of that, finding people who can repair extremely old equipment is not as easy as one would think."

But hearing the actual voices of George Adamski, Betty & Barney Hill, Kenneth Arnold, Edward Condon, Frank Edwards, J. Allen Hynek, Donald Keyhoe, and all the others as they discuss cases makes the effort more than worthwhile.

In addition to audio recordings, Wendy has also amassed a significant

collection of photos of individuals on CD ROM.

When people order the recordings or photos, they are donating to a project which makes a formerly hidden side of ufology available to researchers.

"Besides providing research material," says Wendy, "these recordings offer those who have become bored with the genre of ufological research the opportunity to once again find the excitement that these recordings provide. It's win-win all the way around for both current and future generations."

Wendy can be contacted regarding the formats and costs of these research materials at FadedDiscs@Comcast.net.

She is, of course, also interested if you have some historical recordings that are not yet in the Faded Disc archives. Her website is fadeddiscs.com.

Greenewald marks ten-year anniversary

Aug. 22, 2006, marked a very special day for John Greenewald. Exactly ten years ago on that date, the United States Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) sent him a four-page document that started one of the biggest things in his life: The Black Vault, one of the most popular sites on the Internet.

A decade later the Black Vault, at www.blackvault.com, features 440,000 declassified government documents, has 30,000 registered users, and contains 400,000 messages on its forum.

Greenewald, who started the Black Vault at the age of 15, is now also a producer of documentaries, including "UFO Files: Texas' Roswell" for the History Channel, as well as other projects.

At the recent MUFON International Symposium, Greenewald discussed his experiences as a producer, and served for the second time as master of ceremonies for the event.

Robert Bigelow moves from NIDS into space with Genesis-1 module

Robert Bigelow, best known to *Journal* readers as the man behind the National Institute for Discovery Science (NIDS), has moved into space.

NIDS, which was active in studying animal mutilations and other phenomena, has been virtually closed to research since October, 2004, due to what Bigelow called "a lack of activity" in the UFO/paranormal field.

He is now the man behind the "Genesis-1 expandable module now orbiting the Earth, which represents what one writer calls "entrepreneurial zeal and private sector spunk."

As a pathfinder demonstrator spacecraft, the Genesis-1 mission marks the birth of a long-term vision to build and orbit space structures for commercial and public use.

Bigelow, who spent a great deal of money on the NIDS project, is footing the bill on this business venture—now gauged at upwards of a \$75 million outlay.

He is owner of the Budget Suites of America hotel chain, among other endeavors, and is the module mogul of Bigelow Aerospace in North Las Vegas, NV.

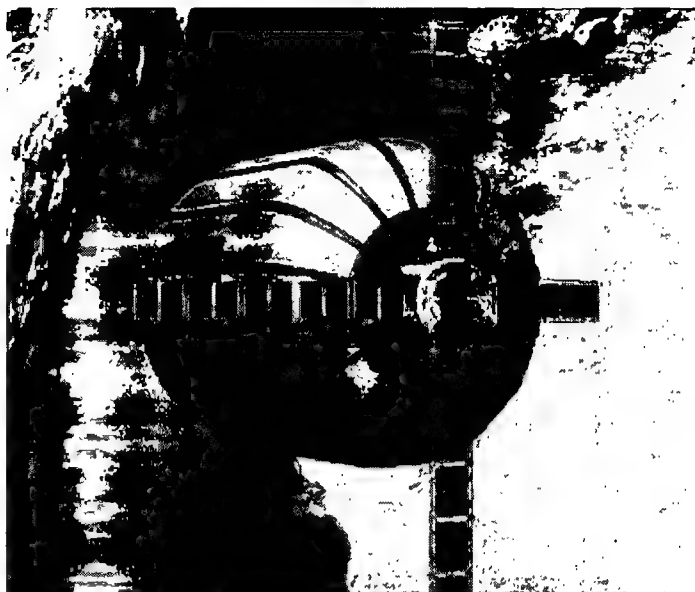
The July 12 launch of the Genesis-1 atop a Russian and Ukrainian booster is a step "to transform the dream of a robust human presence in space into a reality," according to Bigelow.

Once in orbit, Genesis-1 took all of 10 minutes to successfully expand to 8 feet (2.4 meters) in diameter.

Bigelow Aerospace is the odds-on favorite to create a low-cost, low Earth orbit space complex that is accessible to the commercial sector.

Even as Genesis-1 circles the Earth, work is already underway for a Genesis-2 launch before year's end. That flight is expected to lead six months later to lofting a larger, more sophisticated module called Galaxy.

Twice the size of the Genesis-1 now



Genesis-1 has been successful orbiting the Earth since July, sending back photos and other data.

in space, Galaxy will offer 23 cubic meters of interior volume, carry higher-fidelity systems, and is more in a direct path to Bigelow's full-scale kind of thinking in terms of ever-larger modules.

He said they are preparing a volley of flights to throw at the problem of expandable module development and use, not only for low Earth orbit, but also for utilization on the Moon and Mars.

Post-launch data of Genesis-1 has now been analyzed, showing that the module has 7 to 13 years of lifetime in orbit, said Eric Haakonstad, Genesis program manager.

"We are optimistic that we're going to have quite a long time to collect, not just initial performance data, but long-term data as well," he told *SPACE.com*.

Haakonstad said the robustness of the Genesis-1 systems are to be closely watched, including the internal and external power hardware, communications systems, and the integrity of the module's hull structure.

"We want to make sure that it doesn't just work for the first month, the first week, but it works two years, three years from now, reliably,"

Haakonstad noted.

Typical of space systems, he added, the weakest link is the power system "and that's no different here."

"What we're trying to do with this first spacecraft is draw attention to our second spacecraft," Haakonstad explained.

Looking a bit farther into the future, Bigelow is offering a prize of \$50 million to the craft that can ac-

complish two successful dockings with a planned Space Hotel in 2010.

Observations of Genesis-1 had been reported to the Bigelow website by 65 people as of Oct. 1, mostly in the U.S., but also in Europe, Brazil, Australia, Canada, and South Africa.

It has been given the NORAD ID number 29252, and its orbit, as well as other orbiting objects, can be tracked by checking at www.opefs.com.

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National Security Agency affidavit quite sketchy on UFO information

There is one question that persistently bounces around the UFO community: If the government has nothing to hide, then why is it keeping so many UFO records under lock and key?

A document has surfaced that had been stamped "Top Secret Umbra," the code word for the highest, most sensitive category of communications intelligence, which touches on this topic, but provides few answers.

The affidavit was originally filed by the National Security Agency (NSA) in a 1980 lawsuit to justify the withholding of records on UFOs.

The document is largely declassified—with certain sections cut out, ostensibly to protect employee names, and to keep NSA technologies, skills, and foreign connections out of the limelight.

The document's official names is "In Camera Affidavit of Eugene F. Yeates: Citizens Against UFO Secrecy v. National Security Agency, October 9, 1980."

It was released in redacted form in response to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request from researcher Michael Ravnitzky and posted on the website of the Federation of American Scientists.

A read of the document yields insight into how a super-secret agency like the NSA became caught up in the UFO phenomenon.

Created in November, 1952, The National Security Agency/Central Security Service is America's cryptologic organization.

It coordinates, directs, and performs highly specialized activities to protect U.S. government information systems, and churns out foreign intelligence information.

Being a high-tech organization, the NSA is a cutting-edge home for communications and data processing.

The 1980 document explains that a total of 239 documents related to UFOs

were located in NSA files, with 79 of those documents originating with other government agencies.

One document is an account by an NSA official attending a UFO symposium. Many of these reports were produced between 1958 and 1979.

UFO topics

The titles of NSA-related UFO documents that are noted in the declassified document are intriguing, such as "UFO Hypothesis and Survival Questions."

Another title cited is "UFO's and the Intelligence Community Blind Spot to Surprise or Deceptive Data."

In this seven-page, undated, unofficial draft of a monograph authored by an unnamed NSA employee, the author reportedly points out what he considers to be "a serious shortcoming" in the NSA's Communications Intelligence (COMINT) interception and reporting procedures.

That is "the inability to respond correctly to surprising information or deliberately deceptive data."

The author uses the UFO phenomenon to illustrate his belief that the inability of the U.S. intelligence community to process this type of unusual data adversely affects U.S. intelligence gathering capabilities.

Within the pages of the affidavit—and between sections of excised copy—it shows NSA intercepted in 1971 communications between two aircraft and a ground controller discussing a "phenomena" in the sky, as well as radar screen observations, labeling what was viewed as "unidentifiable" objects.

Other intercepted and decrypted reports of bright lights, luminous objects, and unidentified aircraft—along with an elongated ball of fire—scooting through the skies over non-U.S. countries are noted too.

Intercept operations

The 21-page affidavit claims that re-

lease of documents for public scrutiny would seriously damage the ability of the United States to gather this vital intelligence information.

Furthermore, how the NSA works with a network of foreign sources, organizations, and other governments to secure intelligence data would be adversely affected.

The majority of these records, explained NSA official Eugene F. Yeates in the 1980 affidavit, were communications intelligence reports that "are the product of intercept operations directed against foreign government controlled communications systems within their territorial boundaries."

According to Steven Aftergood, director of the Project on Government Secrecy at the Federation of American Scientists in Washington, DC, the newly declassified Yeates affidavit provides new insight into the types of records sought by UFO researchers that have been withheld by NSA.

"Even with all of the deletions, one can get a sense of the enormous scale—and the apparent success—of the worldwide electronic intercept operations conducted by NSA at the height of the Cold War," said Aftergood.

"Unfortunately it is not clear from the affidavit how the withheld documents might have related to UFOs," Aftergood said. "There must have been some connection in order for them to be within the scope of the original FOIA request, but I have no idea what it was."

But for those hungry to show that a great government conspiracy is at work, and that alien-driven UFOs routinely cruise through our skies, this document will not help much.

"The affidavit does not discount the UFO phenomenon," Aftergood concluded, "it simply doesn't address it one way or the other."

—Thanks to MSNBC/SpaceCom, Leonard David.

Mothman associate producer Lisa McIntosh dead at 42

By Loren Coleman

Lisa McIntosh, associate producer of the documentary "Mothman: Man, Myth or Monster?" as part of the Monsters of the UFO project, died July 25, 2006, of a rare cancer called multiple myeloma.

Executive Producer Barry Conrad explains that "strangely enough, she began having fainting spells while in Point Pleasant, WV, during our visit in September, 2004. She was only 42 years old.

"Doctors said it was a textbook case, extremely unusual that this type of cancer would affect someone as young as she was. Only 1 out of approximately 200,000 people contract this disease."

McIntosh was involved with the field production of the project, setting up interviews with many eyewitnesses, connected with these cases.

The Mothman segment shot during the McIntosh-produced filmmaking in September, 2004, contains several of the original people who encountered the creature in 1966.

The mystery death of people associated with Mothman films and investigations is a topic that I have documented for some time, including authoring an article about it and maintaining the list online. Back in 2004, the August issue of *Fortean Times* went on sale with the first publication of the article "The Mothman Death Curse."

July has not been a kind month for those who have experienced these strangely Mothman-related deaths.

After the publication of my article, on July 30, 2004, Jennifer Barrett-Pellington, 42, wife of *The Mothman Prophecies* director Mark Pellington, died after a never-identified "brief illness," in Los Angeles.

She was involved in costume design, and received a "thank you" credit on "The Mothman Prophecies."

On July 16, 2005, Mark Chorvinsky,



Executive producer Barry Conrad (above, right) and his producer partner Lisa McIntosh, who died July 25, had been working on their documentary project about the Flatwoods (WV) Monster, the Kelly (KY) Creatures, and Mothman for more than five years.

51, editor of *Strange Magazine* of Rockville, MD, died after his relatively quiet battle with cancer.

Three investigations of Chorvinsky's overlapped with Mothman mysteries—his interest in the missing Thunderbird photograph, his debunking of the Owlman reports of Tony "Doc" Shiels, and his interviews with people who sighted what Chorvinsky called the "Potomac Mothman."

Case reports

Investigators and State Directors. Please send a copy via email (Word) or snail mail of your case reports directly to the *Journal*, including copies of any photos and drawings (.jpg). Thanks.

Object appears to enter lake

By John W. Castle

MUFON and MI MUFON Field

Investigator/State Section Director.

Sept. 3, 2006, 11:30 PM, Whitefish Bay, Paradise, MI (Upper Peninsula). Cloud cover, sky overcast. Slight to no breeze. Lake still, calm, level. Viewing toward east.

While sitting in a lawn chair viewing the island in Whitefish Bay (Ontario, Canada), I suddenly observed a bright white/gold steady light appear below the cloud deck.

Watching through binoculars what I initially thought was an aircraft, it became apparent that I was lowering the glasses to keep the object in view, as it was not coming toward me, but rather was in a slow, controlled, steady vertical decent toward the water.

As I watched through binoculars I saw only a steady white-gold glow, no shimmering, flaring, or alternating. No red and green or strobing white navigation beacons, no sound, and the only apparent movement was slowly and steadily downward.

As I watched the object get nearer to the surface of the lake, its own glow began to reflect from the water's surface. The closer the object got to the water the brighter its reflected light became.

The object continued in this manner until it and its reflection merged at the surface of the water, suggesting the object submerged into the lake. The light was suddenly gone.

There was no more light, no dark object upon the water, no sound, and no ripples in the lake surface (though it was at too great a distance to detect small ripples).

I eliminated all possible mundane and prosaic objects, such as fixed and rotary-wing aircraft, meteors, parachute flares, etc.

I can only list this as an Unidentified (or Unconventional) Flying Object. Case open as "Unknown" at this time.



FILER'S FILES

By George Filer
Director, MUFON Eastern Region



Note: These reports are presented in order to keep readers informed of some of the vast number of sightings being reported. However, these cases have not been officially investigated, unless noted.

Argentina bovine mutilations

La Pampa — The La Pampa Provincial Police and researchers from CIUFOS-LA PAMPA report:

It was verified that in a rural farm located in the vicinity of the "Padre Buodo," located in the Jurisdiction of General Acha, two black Aberdeen Angus heifers and a calf of the same type appeared to have been mutilated, presenting signs of bodily damage similar to others detected recently.

Another Black Angus calf was found dead and mutilated. A similar fate befell a cow found near Utracan. It should be noted that there has been an increase in cattle mutilations in this province, with specimens of the Aberdeen Angus breed being predominant. *Thanks to Raul Oscar Chaves, CIUFOS-LA PAMPA.*

UK triangle

Rotherham — "When I was 16, in mid-November, 1987," says the witness, "I lived in a place at the center of Rotherham called RUSH House, a place for young kids without a home, to get temporary shelter.

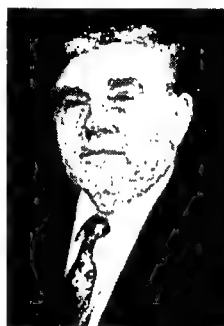
"At about 6 AM, a childhood friend and I decided to go out early to see if we could follow a milk man and 'borrow' a pint of milk each.

"In the corner of my eye, I saw something hovering, silently, about 20 feet above the ground, higher than the traffic lights, outside the railway club on Doncaster Road.

"It was above us, so we could only see the underside of it. It was about the size of small articulated lorry [truck],

but the shape we saw was an isosceles triangle.

"It had a glowing green lamp-like beacon at each underside corner. The thing just hovered above the traffic lights for a few minutes and moved off silently at a slow speed for ten seconds, then climbed higher in the morning sky.



George Filer
Universe."

"Now 36 years old and living in Northern Ireland. I have a science degree, a good job, and a lovely family.

"My life has changed from that day because I know we are not alone in this

New Zealand Aliens

Gisborne North Island — "In 1980, at 3 PM," says the witness, "my wife and I were walking along our country road when we saw at a distance of 200 meters away two adults and two children marching in perfect timing toward us.

"Now they were only 30 meters in front of us, still in a perfect horizontal line holding our gaze. The oldest male had what looked like Peruvian shoes, a shawl, and a strange hat like a cashmere cap. They were all dressed in a collage of international clothing.

"Their skin was olive, and their eyes were the bluest dark blue. Their pupils were like slits, cat's eyes only horizontal. Their hair was dark, and the male child appeared 10 years of age. The female child was around 13 years old and the adults were maybe in their late 20s.

"My wife was squeezing my hand so hard she was cutting off my circula-

tion. We moved to the center of the road, and they kept on walking toward us, but never strayed from their course, or their unusual gait and movement.

"As they were right beside us, only two meters to our left, they were staring at us without turning their head or changing their strange body behavior. No one spoke.

"My wife was in fear, dragging and quickening her pace. When they were 10 meters from us, walking in perfect formation with their backs facing us, they all turned at the exact same moment.

"I was getting strong thoughts that they were in trouble. My wife started pulling me up the road, and only ten seconds elapsed when I turned around again and they were gone. I've always known these beings were not part of our world."

Canadian football

Aldergrove, British Columbia — The witness reports, "I saw a UFO shaped like a football hovering very low to the ground on Sept. 11, 2006, from 8:15 to 8:30 PM. I got in my car and followed it.

"It was very bright in the center, and it went so slowly at first. When I lifted my camera (digital) to take a picture, it would not pick it up on the camera.

"The object picked up speed very quickly and flew towards 264th Street in Aldergrove, B.C. I saw it at 232nd and 32nd Avenue. The lights were mostly clear, with a green one and red, but the inside was very bright fluorescent."

Ancient building found in Syria

Damascus — Archaeologists claim they have discovered an 11-millennium-old building on the banks of the Euphrates River in northern Syria.

"A remarkable discovery has just been uncovered of a large circular building dating back to 8,800 BC near Ja'de," the leader of the French archaeological team that made the find said.

The building, much larger than normal houses, "had a collective use, probably for all of the village or a group," Eric Coqueugniot said.

"A part of this community building takes the shape of the head of a bull and retains painted decorations, the oldest known in the Middle East.

"The multi-colored geometrical paintings that decorate the building will be displayed at the museum of Aleppo, in northern Syria.

"Many hunting weapons, domestic tools ... were discovered at this level. The majority of these tools are made of flint, and very few are of obsidian [volcanic stone]."

Coqueugniot heads the team of the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS), France's largest scientific establishment, which has led the work at the site for the past 15 years.

Argentina paranormal activity

Toay — At 905 PM on Oct. 10, 2006, residents of the Quintas Sur Sector, located between Santa Rosa and Toay, reported seeing a great light which vanished unexpectedly.

According to witnesses chatting on the sidewalk, they saw how "a luminous spot appear static for several minutes. It then increased its size gradually until it reached a dimension or volume ten times greater than the planet Venus.

Another black Aberdeen Angus cow—this time pregnant—was found dead and mutilated at km 17 of Provincial Route No. 152.

This was in the jurisdiction of General Acha, a locality some 110 km south of Santa Rosa, La Pampa. Thanks to Scott Corrales, Institute of Hispanic Ufology for the translation (c) 2006.

Puerto Rico girl terrified

Camuy — *The Journal of Hispanic Ufology* reports that at around 10:45 PM, a girl's mother, the fiancée of a



This photo was taken by Bogdan Gesicki over Garbno, Poland, on May 29, 2004. It probably shows a chance UFO.

A "distorted" UFO craft, the wit-

ness emphasized: "with six centers," was also allegedly photographed by G. Brozek in Libiaz, Poland, in April, 2006.

Source: www.ufotv.pl/

well-known paranormal researcher, told the seven-year-old girl to go to her grandparent's bathroom to brush her teeth and go to bed.

She returned terrified and weeping, trembling with fear. She told her mother that "the Chupacabra" was in her grandparent's room and had tried to seize her.

After the mother calmed her down, the girl said she was about to open the bathroom door when a set of red eyes came in through the window and materialized into a hairy creature beside her.

Upon materialization, its estimated height was 5 feet 6 inches tall, and it was hairy like a lion with black fur. It had a human-shaped mouth with dirty canine-like teeth, pointed ears like those of a dog, hairy human hands with canine-like claws, and human feet. It growled, was unclothed, and tried to grab her.

She started to run and scream. When she ran toward the bedroom's exit, the creature followed, making as if to grab her. She shut the bedroom door behind her and ran to her mother.

The mother asked her to tell her story several times, and her statement of the facts did not change.

When Lucy Guzman interviewed the mother and child two weeks later, the girl retold her experience calmly, and the version of the events was identical to the mother's.

Guzman inquired if any good or bad odors had been present, and the girl replied that "it neither smelled nor stank." Guzman asked if the room had grown hot or cold, and the girl replied that the air conditioner had been on at the time, remaining at the same level of coolness throughout."

Translation (c) 2006, Scott Corrales, Institute of Hispanic Ufology. Special thanks to Lucy Guzman.

Pennsylvania Object

Doylestown — Arthur Sturts writes that at 9:40 PM he saw two starlike UFOs "shoot across the sky through my Orion Observer 70 mm Altaz Telescope with a 25 mm Kellner eyepiece at a very great speed near the Bootes Constellation.

"I was facing east. The first UFO



The Croatian UFO organization reports an unidentified flying object photographed over Split on the Adriatic Sea on Aug. 15, 2006.

The photographer says, "I took a photo of a UFO about 3 PM that was moving slow and then disappeared."

The witness was looking at the sky out the window of her house when she noticed the unidentified moving object.

The white-silver object was descending. "It disappeared behind that building," she said. "I think it landed into the sea."

Source: Ufogovermnet Croatia, By: Piotr Cielebia [NPN].

was slightly larger and moving slightly slower than the second UFO.

"I saw four bright lights flying southeast on the night of Dec. 11, 1998. There was a strange sound to the craft's engines. Then the sound of a loud jet engine was heard. I saw a real bright white light in the aft section of the craft.

"I could see four bright white lights on the craft's fuselage as it flew over. The lights were in a triangular shape, but I could not see the fuselage." Thanks to Arthur Sturts.

Three UFOs in Vermont

Manchester Center — "On Sept. 25, 2006, I went out at 8:50 PM," says the witness, "and spotted two objects flying low, and then a third one got just above the tree line, stopped, and then slowly dropped to earth.

"Tonight these objects were all blinking silver and blue, coming from the east and heading west. This all took about ten minutes. I am almost sure it landed southwest of my home.

"I am very concerned about the one that dropped out of sight. There was no sound to be heard." Thanks to MUFON CMS

Virginia object with red lights

Chester — "On Sept. 9, 2006, at 8:08 PM," says the witness, "I was watching the sky when I suddenly no-

ticed a red light to my left. I watched it for a few seconds and sure enough, it came into view.

"It traveled pretty fast, and I also noticed it had a bottom egg shape to it. It traveled at an angle of about 35 degrees. The lights were red as they slid from side to side. The craft was saucer shaped and high up, traveling at a pace of over 45 MPH." Thanks to UFOINFO.

Objects in Australia go to school

Melbourne School Grounds — The witness reports: "I was a student at a Catholic school in Melbourne in 1964, and on this day all 300 of us school kids were cleaning up the school yard in silence.

"Before a bell sounded at 12:30 PM, I looked up and saw three discs in tripod formation stationary above us in a clear blue sky. The estimated height was about 8,000 feet. The UFO in the front of the formation moved to a 45-degree angle, still stationary, and took off at such a speed you saw it for a nano second.

"Twenty seconds later it came back at a massive speed and stopped in its original position. The back two UFOs maneuvered the exact same maneuver and took off, then returned and pulled up at their original positions. The Sun was intensifying the metallic structure

of these craft. Then they all moved into a single file, as maneuvering one on top of the other then returning back to their positions, stationary.

"Then they all took off north, south, and west, and were gone. We were told to go to class, and our lunch period was cut short."

Another visit reported

John, 15, says, "It was around 2:30 AM on Oct. 2, 2006. I had finished a call with a foreign friend of mine. Then a weird sensation came over me, a feeling I've only felt twice before.

"A brilliant flash of light blazed through the kitchen window. I knew immediately what it was.

"I go to the window and sure enough the same UFO and four orbs that had visited me before were floating silently over the trees, circling my home as before.

"The four orbs were following the main object in an unusual drunken path. Three minutes later it passed in view and shined its light on the window. At this point my two cats were VERY upset and were growling and hissing madly at the craft.

"It was then I heard something in my head. One word in clean English: 'Sorry.' The light shut off, and launched straight into the sky along with its orb companions."

Former FAA official confirms that UFO was seen

"For those people who say that if these UFOs existed, they would some day be on radar, and that there'd be professionals who would see it, then I can tell them that back in 1986 there were enough professional people that saw it," says John Callahan.

"I was the Division Chief of the Accidents and Investigations Branch of the FAA in Washington, DC, for six years. What I can tell you is what I've seen with my own eyes.

"I've got a videotape. I've got the voice tape. And I've got the reports that were filed that will confirm what I've been telling you.

"In 1986, a Japanese Airlines 747

flight was followed by a huge UFO for 31 minutes over the Alaskan skies. The UFO also trailed a United Airlines flight until the flight landed.

"There was visual confirmation as well as airborne and ground-based radar confirmation.

"This particular incident started with a phone call from the people in Alaska.

"I said, 'What's the problem?' He said, 'Well, it's that UFO. The UFO was bouncing around the 747 here.'

FAA Administrator Adm. Engen told me to attend a briefing the next day where the FBI, CIA, President Reagan's Scientific Study Team, and

others attended.

"When we gave the presentation to the Reagan staff, they had all those people swear that this never happened. I've been involved in a lot of cover-ups with the FAA, but they never had me swear it never happened.

"Capt. Terauchi, the pilot of the JAL 747, was featured on numerous radio and TV programs and in *People Magazine*.

"Within a few months of these events he was grounded, apparently for his indiscretion in reporting a UFO, even though he was a senior captain with an excellent flying record."

—Thanks to the Disclosure Project

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

1. Publication Title: MUFON UFO Journal

2. Publication No. 002-970

3. Filing Date: August 30, 2006

4. Monthly

5. No. of issues published annually: 12

6. Annual subscription price: USA \$45, Foreign \$55

7. Complete mailing address of known Office of Publication:

B-W Graphics, Inc., 101 Westview, Versailles, MO 65084-1839

Ph: (573) 378-6363

8. Complete address of the Headquarters: Mutual UFO Network,

P. O. Box 369, Morrison, CO 80465-0369

9. Full names and complete addresses of publisher and editor:

Publisher: John F. Schuessler, P. O. Box 369, Morrison, CO 80465-0369

Editor: Dwight Connelly, 14026 Ridgelawn, Martinsville, IL 62442-2514

10. Owner: MUFON/Mutual UFO Network, Inc.

P. O. Box 369, Morrison, CO 80465-0369.

A Texas Nonprofit Corporation

TI No. 37-0990161 and exempt from Federal

Income Tax under Sections 501 (c)(3) and

509 (a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code.

11. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding one percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages or other securities: NONE

12. For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at specific rates: Has not changed during preceding 12 months.

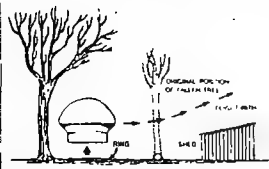
13. Publication Name: MUFON UFO Journal

14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: August 2006

15. Extent and nature of circulation:

	Average No. copies each issue during preceding 12 months	Actual No. of copies published nearest to filing date
a. Total No. copies (net press run)	2444	2390
b. Paid and/or requested circulation		
1) Sales through dealers & carriers (not mailed)	0	0
2) Paid or requested mail subscriptions	2276	2225
c. Total paid and/or requested circulation	2276	2225
d. Free distributions by mail (samples, complimentary, & other free copies)	35	40
e. Free distribution outside the mail	0	0
f. Total free distribution (sum of 15d & 15e)	35	40
g. Total distribution (sum of 15c & 15f)	2311	2265
h. Copies not distributed	133	125
1. Total (sum of 15g & 15h)	2444	2390
Percent Paid and/or Requested circulation	99%	99%

16. Publication of Statement of Ownership will be printed in the November 2006 issue.



Physical Traces

By Ted Phillips

Last month I listed a number of cases from my files which will eventually become part of MUFON's Pandora Project, and thus available to all researchers.

Following are some more of these cases, in reverse chronological order, picking up where I left off last month:

Circle and substance found

October, 2002. Liucura, Chile. An area was isolated by the military after the finding of a 30-meter circular area burned, along with trees. A white substance was also found.

At equidistant points of the circle were four circles measuring 15 cm, which were not scorched. They are like four legs at the center of the circle. Radiation was reportedly detected.



Ted Phillips

Back window lost

Oct. 18, 2002—Warrnambool, Australia—Sue Sharples and her husband were driving with their baby grandson in a car seat in the back seat when they saw a metallic object above the car.

They saw the rear window disappear upwards as if it was levitated from the car. Searches of the area failed to locate the window.

Experts from the firm of O'Brien stated that the window could not have been kicked out, and there was no sign that it had been cut free. "The seal was still attached, and there was no glass splintering."

A landing in Greece

Aug. 8 & 10, 2002—Kozyaka,

Greece—Dozens of peasants saw an object land in a farm field just outside the village. The object was "disc-shaped and 10 meters in diameter, with many small portholes on it. The object landed and left traces in the field."

Additional reports of field markings found in a number of areas, "not like crop circles."

Cell phone taken

Aug. 2, 2002—Jacinto Arauz, Argentina—Raul Dorado, 64, was in his field 5 km northeast of the village when he "heard a sound on two occasions, like a whirlwind, which drew my attention."

The third time he saw something he described as "a green circle with three legs" hovering over him. He fell to the ground along with his shotgun, binoculars, and cell phone.

The cell phone was taken from his hand, and he could clearly see it being sucked into the object, which was low to the ground.

"It was a dim, green-colored circumference; it had three legs and was barely a meter away from me. When I saw it I felt something like an electrical charge. I fell to the ground on my knees, paralyzed, unable to do anything.

"I saw the cell phone rising and disappearing. As the object disappeared toward the east, I remained at the location for an hour before being able to rise and walk back to the car."

He was admitted to the local hospital, where he was cared for by Dr. Ana Maria Lazaric. An alert police officer who arrived at the scene dialed the cell phone number. The phone rang and was answered. He could hear only static and heavy breathing.

Woman knocked unconscious

Jan. 1, 2002—Las Pailas, Argentina—Faustine Nolasco, 57, a peasant woman, had gone outside to get water

and irrigate her garden when she was blinded and then knocked down by a powerful light. She knew nothing of UFOs, as she had little contact with the outside world.

"The sky was completely clear, and it surprised me that a light as bright as a lightning bolt blinded me and knocked me down. It came so close to me that by the time I reacted and got up off the ground, my face hurt.

"I figure I was unconscious for about an hour and a half outdoors. But I remember nothing of that time.

"When I checked the next day I saw that a tree close to where I passed out was completely burned. The same happened to my garden plot of zapallos and cabbage; the plants were not burned but wilted and dead."

Watches gain time

Dec. 5, 2001—Terre Haute, IN—Witness opened a sliding door to take his dog for a walk when he heard a whooshing sound and saw a dark object, like a "flattened air bubble rising through water" move straight up less than 100 feet away.

He found a curious area in the grass, and the dog would not go near it. Two watches gained one minute, 34 seconds.

Trees & cattle affected

Nov. 25, 2001—Corguinho, Brazil—Six villagers saw two brilliant objects and an extremely bright flash. Farmer Getulio Alves says the display burned nearby trees and blinded his cattle.

Auto engine stopped

Nov. 7, 2001—Nebraska—"I was driving home from my parents along a dirt road in farm land. I noticed in front of my car an area which was distorted, like heat waves coming off a hot surface.

"The headlights began to flicker, the radio failed, and the engine stopped. A red glowing irregular-shaped object was 20 feet ahead of my car. It was hovering about 10 feet above the road.

"It stayed at that spot for five minutes, then the color went from red to platinum silver and it shot straight up at incredible speed. The car began functioning again, and I drove home.

"I told my husband what had happened, and he checked the car right away and found spots on the hood where the paint had bubbled as if burned.

"The radio worked, but the CD player and digital clock no longer work. I continue to suffer headaches and sporadic shooting pains up my spine."

Circular area

May, 2001—Etzikom, Canada—Conical bright light with tip pointing upward hovered over a field for an hour. Circular area 9.3 feet in diameter with an outer ring of 1.3 feet. Main central depression is 8 feet in diameter, 3 holes inside the circular area.

Security videos record UFO

April 29, 2001, night—Levice, Slovakia—A brilliant circular object approached a nuclear facility from the north, descending in altitude as it passed over the old stacks (now shut down) and over the main buildings located at the center of the plant.

It hovered 20 feet above the active stacks for 10 minutes before ascending vertically.

All security video units were activated on approach, and taped the object from many locations within the facility.

One tape was shown one time on national television. I was in country at the time and called the director to try to obtain a copy, but all copies had been taken by the military. I went immediately to Levice and located many witnesses.

2000 a busy year

The year 2000 provided 27 new trace cases, which is much more pro-

ductive than the six years following. These are the significant events:

A burning sensation

Oct. 31, 2000—Cygnat, OH—Several witnesses observed an egg-shaped device with brilliant external lights. One witness in a car experienced burning sensations and a persistent skin rash during and after the event.

A circular nest

Oct. 25, 2000—Sao Jaoa da Boa Vista, Brazil—Witnesses observed a silvery object on the ground, dogs reacted, object ascended, and a circular "nest" was found at the spot.

Landing with traces

Aug. 27, 2000—Dera, Kenya—Object flying over Fort Munro and Rakhi Gaaj, landing with traces; no details.

A burned circle

Aug. 12, 2000—Woodborough Hill, England—Multiple witnesses observed a small orange sphere which discharged red and white bursts of light. A circular burned area was found; no additional details.

Object sets off car alarm

July 23, 2000—Ashtabula, OH—Three witnesses, ages 60 to 70, were driving a new Cadillac when the car was surrounded by small lights. The lights followed the vehicle down the highway at high speed for 40 miles.

The car's alarm system went off and on, the radio was reset, and the clock lost time. A damp, sticky residue formed on the windshield.

Hole with polished walls

June 24, 2000—Yuzhnoye, Russia—Farmers reported lights in the fields, and found four 5-to-20-meter circles and a 20 cm deep cylindrical hole with polished walls at the center of the 20 meter site.

Canadian sphere

May 18, 2000—Sorrento, Canada—Witness walking dog observes small orange-red glow on the ground 100 meters away.

He describes it as a sphere 2 feet in diameter, 1 to 1.5 feet thick with a 4 to 6 inch band of orange-red light around the middle.

It ascended slowly, increased speed, and moved away rapidly. A small area of depressed grass was found at the landing site.

Missouri ring

May, 2000—Ironton, MO—Elderly lady observes three bright objects flying low over her farm. One dives toward ground, and a 7.9 meter ring found.

Lights go out

April 24, 2000—Tucapel, Chile—Jose Prieto and four others saw a brilliant blue light which filled the room. The house lights went out, and when they went outside they found a triangular ground mark with a base of one meter and each side 20 meters.

Y-shaped depression

March 3, 2000—Tanah Merah, Kelantan—Multiple witnesses saw large objects emitting rays of light on the ground 100 meters away. They were seen for several minutes under good weather conditions.

A Y-shaped depression 15 meters x 5 meters was found. Near the depression was a 3-meter deep hollow, and three holes 1 meter in diameter and 1 meter apart.

Witness suffers skin rash

Jan. 24, 2000—Glance Bay, Canada—Excellent witness. A young man was walking to work when a small vertical cone-shaped object passed him at a distance of 1 meter.

He felt a cold sensation as it was near him. The device, which was almost touching the ground, made two turns and disappeared into the distance. The object was 8 feet tall, 5 feet wide at the base, and 1.5 feet wide at the top section.

It was dark with no surface details visible. The witness suffered severe skin rash and sores immediately after the event.



PERCEPTIONS

By Stanton T. Friedman

The puzzle of Purcell

While working on my paper "Flying Saucers and Physics" to be presented at Film Producer Paul Kimball's New Frontiers Symposium in Halifax, Nova Scotia on Oct. 13, I decided to briefly describe several completely false past conclusions reached by noted astronomers looking into flight in a supposedly scientific fashion.

My point was to assure people that card carrying scientists have often been woefully in error when stepping into areas where they know nothing.

I wanted to include the false claim by Dr. Simon Newcomb, one of the top astronomers in the 19th and early 20th century.

In October, 1903, he published a paper showing man could fly only with the help of a balloon. This was two months before the Wright Brothers' first flight.

New Zealand astronomer Alexander William Bickerton in 1926 gave a paper at a meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science showing it would be impossible to put anything in orbit around the earth because our best explosive had only 1/10 as much energy per pound as a pound of orbital payload required.

It turns out propellant combinations such as hydrogen and oxygen have three times as much energy per pound as TNT, and also there is no need to put the propellant in orbit—only the payload.

My favorite has always been a Canadian, Dr. John William Campbell, who in 1941 wrote a long "scientific" paper in which he computed the required initial launch weight of a rocket able to get a man to the moon and back as a million million tons.

He was too high by a factor of 300 million because he, as with Newcombe and Bickerton, made a host of frankly

stupid assumptions about the "how" details, such as a single stage rocket having much too low an exhaust velocity, limited to 1G acceleration, used as a retro rocket to slow it down on return, and not using any cosmic freeloading.

When it comes to space flight, "The devil is certainly in the details."



Stan Friedman

I also wanted to include a comment about an astronomer, Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson, director of the Hayden Planetarium at New York's American Museum of Natural History, claiming that star travel was impossible because our fastest spacecraft, Voyager, would take 70,000 years to get to the nearest star.

He made this statement on the Peter Jennings ABC-TV "documentary" *fi*asco of Feb. 24, 2005. Of course it has no propulsion system, and has been basically coasting since it left Earth.

Finally, I decided I should reread the article by Nobel Prize winning physicist Dr. Edward Mills Purcell.

He looked at a relativistic trip to a star only 12 light years away using matter anti-matter annihilation and concluded "all this stuff about traveling around the universe in spacesuits—except for local exploration which I have not discussed—belongs back where it came from on the cereal box."

There is no question that Purcell (1912-1997) had a very impressive background indeed. He earned a PhD in physics from Harvard in 1938, and worked at the MIT Radiation Lab in the early 1940s on electronics and com-

munications research, undoubtedly classified.

He won a Nobel Prize in Physics as a professor at Harvard back in 1952 with Dr. Ernest Bloch for work on new methods for nuclear magnetic precision measurements.

This was a way to detect the extremely weak magnetism of the atomic nucleus.

He and a graduate student, Harold I. Ewen, also were the first to detect electromagnetic waves from clouds of hydrogen in space at a frequency of 1420 megacycles (wavelength of 21cm).

This has become the basis for most SETI searches. There are several reasons. First of all, hydrogen is by far the most abundant substance in the universe, and all civilizations would be aware of that fact.

Secondly, at this frequency the atmosphere of Earth is relatively transparent and will, practically speaking, not absorb radio waves having this frequency.

Of course, one might expect that most planet-to-planet communication in an advanced civilization would take place from outwardly broadcasting satellites above the planets rather than on them.

Think how quickly we are moving towards broadcasting to satellites and then having the satellites broadcast down to receivers on earth.

A satellite at the proper altitude can be on-line continuously with another similar device in other solar systems.

Purcell's 23-page paper, "Radio-astronomy and Communication Through Space," was first presented at Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island in 1960.

The written version is one of 32 papers in a rather fascinating, but frustrating, 320-page book, "Interstellar Communication: The Search for Extra-

terrestrial Life,” put together by Alistair G.W.Cameron and published in 1963 by W.A.Benjamin Inc. of New York and Amsterdam.

It is basically an anthology, and has two papers by Frank Drake and many others by SETI specialists. None deal with UFOs, of course.

Only about five pages of Purcell’s paper deal with interstellar travel. As might be expected, it is very simplistic, with little concern with the “How” details.

He assumes matter antimatter annihilation at 100% efficiency, a maximum velocity of only 98c (c is the speed of light), a target star 12 light years away, and acceleration at 1G half way out and deceleration by 1G the second half of the trip—and the repeat of the process in reverse to come home.

The fraction of the total huge initial launch weight available for payload is very very small, hence the cereal box comment.

He acknowledges that indeed time slows down for things moving at close to c, and that storing anti-matter which reacts immediately with matter, is very difficult.

He assumes the entire mass of the fuel would be launched from Earth, rather than refueling at the target star or some intermediate propellant refueling station.

He ignores the best nuclear fusion reactions, such as deuterium-Helium 3 which provides five times as much energy per reaction as the hydrogen-hydrogen reaction he assumes, and provides charged particles which can be accelerated. He also ignores cosmic freeloading such as we use for all our deep space probes.

Of particular importance is the fact that at 1G it takes only a year to get close to the speed of light, and that once one achieves a cruising speed of say 9999c one would coast rather than keep accelerating.

The benefits of Einsteinian time slowing down get to be very much more important at very close to c. A 747 accelerates to cruise speed, then cruises, rather than wasting energy to continue accelerating.

Freeman Dyson, who worked on the Orion deep space propulsion system (nuclear weapons exploded near the back of a rocket to push it forward), does have a six-page paper, “Gravitational Machines.”

In this paper he notes the use of the gravitational field of one star to provide acceleration to an object sent from a nearby star. He claims that a binary pair of white dwarf stars could accelerate a spaceship by 10,000 Gs without any internal problems for the crew and craft.

He doesn’t talk about the possibility of using planets’ gravitational fields to accelerate spacecraft coming from another planet as we do.

A German scientist, Sebastian von Hoerner (in 1960 working with Frank Drake at “Green Bank” radio observatory in West Virginia), also had a paper in the book, “The General Limits of Space Travel.”

He has more equations than does Purcell, but again no details about specific flight profiles such as an engineer would normally review. He, too, comes up negative. I don’t think he was as far off as Dr. Campbell.

There is no indication that I could find in the book of near-future trips to the Moon, of the landing of probes on Mars, and traipsing out past Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune etc.

There is mention of the possible use of lasers for interstellar communication.

I noted with interest that at one time Purcell had been president of the American Physical Society, and had also been elected to the National Academy of Sciences and had been awarded the National Medal of Science.

In digging deeper, I found that he had also been a member of the Science Advisory Committee of President Eisenhower from Nov. 22, 1957, (less than two months after the launch of Sputnik) to Dec. 31, 1960, and also served under President Kennedy and President Johnson.

There were several other Nobelists on the PSAC membership list of 17, and also Majestic 12 member Dr. Detlev Bronk.

I checked with the Eisenhower Library, and they have a lot of documents

dealing with Purcell and these activities. It turns out he was also chairman of the Space Science and Technology Panel.

Purcell attended numerous meetings and is mentioned in many documents. He is listed as making presentations on space science at several panel meetings.

PSAC records are in six boxes and total 4,800 pages. Purcell is listed in the President’s Appointment Books card index as having met five times with the President.

These papers will be the target of my research during my next visit to the Eisenhower Library.

Purcell’s calculations about interstellar travel seem very simplistic for somebody with a proven record of creativity and presumably very knowledgeable about space science and technology.

Could he have been playing a debunking role similar to that of another well known Harvard professor, Dr. Donald Menzel?

Turns out that, according to the Eisenhower Library archivist, Purcell did indeed have a TOP SECRET clearance.

I realize some will consider this thought as a pure conspiracy theory. He certainly had no aversion to technical work for the government.

But with his past history of classified government research, his creative energy, and his active participation in high level government advisory committees, he would seem an excellent prospect for Majestic 12 research, and certainly would have been familiar with Menzel.

Having a top scientist, with a Nobel Prize at that, speak out against the notion of interstellar travel would have been an excellent way to tamp down discussion about UFOs amongst other scientists.

Menzel’s negative books about UFOs had a similar effect on many scientists, both in the USA and in Russia, as his first debunking book was translated into Russian.

I expect to learn a lot more about Purcell in the next few months.

fsphys@rogers.com

www.stantonfriedman.com

Directors' Message

(Continued from page 2)

by the continuous stream of UFO-related documentaries and reality TV shows on the cable TV channels. Who knows when the next major UFO wave will hit—and it is crucial that when it does, MUFON's investigator corps is ready to meet the challenge.

Busy year planned

This upcoming year will be very busy for the MUFON board and staff members, as there are many exciting changes ahead:

- ◆ A new edition of the *MUFON Field Investigator Manual* is in the works, and will be streamlined to make the investigative process more intuitive and more closely aligned with forensic investigative techniques and the use of MUFON's online Case Management System (CMS)

- ◆ A revised edition of the MUFON Field Investigator exam will be released concurrently with the new Field Investigator Manual.

- ◆ MUFON members will soon have online access to the Pandora Case Files.

- ◆ The MUFON web site will be updated to include member message boards for sharing ideas and networking with your friends and peers.

- ◆ Many more exciting ideas that I will share with you in the upcoming months.

Transition

In case you did not know, MUFON headquarters has a new home in Bellvue, CO. MUFON's business manager, Kristen Kennington, and I spent most of October getting the new office ready and open for business.

John and Kathy Schuessler were also instrumental in making the transition as smooth and worry free as possible.

Please note that the new headquarters' mailing address is: MUFON, P.O. Box 279, Bellvue, Colorado 80512-0279. The new headquarters' phone number is 970-221-1836, and the new fax number is 866-466-9173.

MUFON library

I am also pleased to announce that

MUFON now has a comprehensive UFO library here at MUFON headquarters, consisting of some 1500 UFO-related books, journals, and other publications, many of them rare and out of print. The library will be a great resource for MUFON researchers to use in their research projects. We welcome the donation of UFO-related books and publications to increase the library holdings and any contribution will be greatly appreciated.

2007 Symposium theme chosen

In other MUFON news, the theme for the MUFON 2007 Symposium in Denver has been chosen—"An Estimate of the Situation: The Extraterrestrial Hypothesis."

Make sure you set aside Aug. 10-12, 2007, for this important event as the world's leading UFOLOGISTS debate the original UFO theory.

You will not want to miss next year's Symposium as MUFON will make an unprecedented announcement on what our 36 years of research has concluded about the possibility of extraterrestrial visitors.

New Field Investigators

Kathleen Marden, Director of Field Investigator Training, has announced that **Glen Means** of Omaha, NE; **Perry Patten** of Arvada, CO; **Marcia Prince** of Memphis, TN; **Diana Starr-Salnavé** of Gresham, OR; and **Richard A. Stockfezt, Sr.** of San Diego, CA, have passed the MUFON Field Investigator's Exam and are now MUFON Field Investigators.

All Field Investigator Trainees are urged to self-study the MUFON Field Investigator's Manual and take the exam.

The manual is available from MUFON Headquarters, P.O. Box 279, Bellvue, CO 80512-0279 for \$25 plus \$3.50 p&h. Total price for delivery outside the U.S. is \$49.50. It may also be purchased on the Internet at www.mufon.com using PayPal.

Please communicate

Finally, I always enjoy hearing from MUFON members, so please send me

an email or letter, or just pick up the phone and call. This is your organization, and I am here to serve you.

Additional CMS feature described

In addition to the new cell phone paging feature on MUFON's CMS system announced last month, investigators should also be aware of an additional new enhancement.

Accompanying an Investigators report page is a link to a CMS (Perl) version of Webmaster Terry Groff's Ballester-Guasp Report Evaluator.

To access it, an investigator will Login to CMS, click "View my sighting reports," select a case, and press the "Edit" button. Click the "BGE" button at the top or bottom of the page.

This will open the evaluator in a new page. From there simply select the appropriate radio buttons pertinent to the case and press "Submit."

The calculation will be displayed on a new page. The investigator will also be given the option of printing out the data for his/her own records.

There might be changes in the future to the current setup, but that is a low priority right now, according to Groff, Field Investigator/Webmaster, MUFON DFW, terry@mufondfw.org, <http://mufondfw.org>.

Chinese lanterns a problem in the UK

The release of orange-glowing Chinese lanterns is now becoming a popular trend in the UK, especially at wedding celebrations. British ufologists thus face the dilemma of spending time dealing with Chinese lantern "UFOs" or ignoring all orange UFO reports.

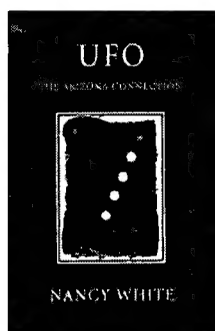
In addition, there is the danger that the numerous easily-explained "Orange UFO mysteries" will significantly reduce the chance of genuine UFO reports being taken seriously by the media.

UFO MARKETPLACE

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GOV/MILITARY & MURDER &
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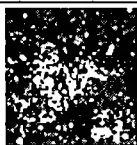
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The Night Sky

By Gavin A. J. McLeod

December 2006

Moon phases:

Full Moon: Dec. 5

Last Quarter: Dec. 12

New Moon: Dec. 20

First Quarter: Dec. 27

Bright planets (evening sky)

Venus (magnitude -3.8): Moving from Ophiuchus into Sagittarius. For northern and southern hemisphere observers, Venus will slowly emerge in the southwest evening twilight during the month, but will remain very low to the horizon.

Mars (magnitude 1.6 to 1.5): Moving from Libra through Scorpius into Ophiuchus. For northern and southern hemisphere observers, Mars will emerge slowly in the east-southeast morning twilight sky in the second half of the month.

By month's end, Mars will rise about 1.5 hours before the Sun.

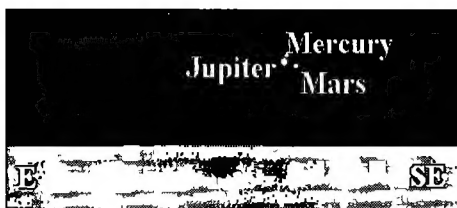
Bright planets (morning sky)

Mercury (magnitude -0.6 to -0.7): Moving from Libra through Ophiuchus into Sagittarius. For northern and southern hemisphere observers, Mercury will continue to be easily observable until it becomes lost in the glare of the Sun in the east-southeast by about midmonth.

Jupiter (magnitude -1.7): In Virgo. For northern hemisphere observers, Jupiter will emerge in the twilight dawn during the month. By month's end, Jupiter will be very low in the southeast at the beginning of morning twilight.

For less favored southern hemisphere observers, Jupiter will slowly emerge in the east-southeast dawn twilight in the second half of the month.

Saturn (magnitude 0.4 to 0.3): In Leo. For northern hemisphere observers, Saturn will rise near 9 PM in the east-northeast, and will stand about 55 degrees high in the southwest at the be-



ginning of morning twilight.

For southern hemisphere observers, Saturn will rise before 11 PM in the east-northeast, and will stand about 45 degrees high in the north-northeast at the beginning of morning twilight.

Other celestial phenomena

Dec. 22: Winter Solstice marks the first day of winter for Earth's Northern Hemisphere, and first day of summer for the Southern Hemisphere).

Meteor showers:

Geminids: The annual Geminid meteor shower will peak on the night of Dec. 13/14. This shower is one of the better showers, since as many as 100 meteors per hour may be seen.

While this certainly doesn't rival the Leonids in recent years, this is still a very high rate for a regular meteor shower.

This is an unusual shower in that the source of the shower is not believed to be a comet, but rather from an object known as 3200 Phaethon. This object is currently classified as an asteroid, but some scientists believe that it might be an extinct comet with a thick crust of interplanetary dust.

Another thing that makes the Geminids unusual is that one doesn't have to wait until after midnight to catch this shower. The radiant rises early, and meteors can be seen around 10 PM local time, but the best view will still be after midnight local time.

This shower also boasts a broad maximum, lasting nearly one whole day, so no matter where you live, you stand a decent chance of catching sight of some Geminids.

The actual peak will occur around

Planetary Conjunction: before sunrise on Dec. 10, 2006. This will be the closest grouping of three naked-eye planets during the period 1980-2050. All three planets will barely fit within a 1-degree circle. Binoculars may be necessary.

04:00 UTC on the 14th (6:40 PM EST, 5:40 CST, 4:40 MST, and 3:40 PM PST on the 13th). Unfortunately the Moon will be just past its last quarter phase and will not rise until about 12:30 AM.

Ursids: The Ursids peak on Dec. 22/23 and have a peak hourly rate of 10 or so, but in some years the hourly peak has risen as high as 50.

The Moon will not be a problem this year, as it will be just past the new Moon phase.

Conjunctions and occultations:

Dec. 9: Mercury 1.0 degrees north of Mars.

Dec. 10: Saturn 1.2 degrees south of the Moon.

Dec. 10: Mercury 1.2 degrees north of Jupiter.